

2006 SOUTH CAROLINA DEER HARVEST REPORT



SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DEER RESEARCH & MANAGEMENT PROJECT



DNR

Submitted by

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INTRODUCTION

The white-tailed deer is the most popular, sought after, economically important, and controversial game animal in South Carolina. The 2006 Deer Hunter Survey represents the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources' (DNR), Wildlife Section's ongoing commitment to conduct pertinent research related to the state's white-tailed deer resource. The primary objectives of this survey research were to obtain valid estimates of; (1) the statewide deer harvest in 2006, (2) the harvest of deer in the constituent counties of the state, (3) hunting effort related to deer, (4) resident and non-resident hunter activities, and (5) weapons use, weapons preference, and harvest rates by weapon type. Information on hunter opinion related to certain aspects of the deer resource as well as estimates of the wild hog and coyote harvest in the state is also presented.

Due to the importance of deer as a state resource, DNR believes that accurately assessing the harvest of deer, as well as hunter participation in deer hunting, is key to the management of this species. Proposed changes in deer-related laws and regulations should have foundations in biology, therefore, the population dynamics associated with annual hunting mortality cannot be ignored. Similarly, when issues arise that do not involve biological parameters, it is important to have information related to deer hunter activities afield because they too form an important basis for managing deer.

Since the inception of the Statewide Deer Research and Management Project (Deer Project) the methods used to document the state's deer harvest have changed. Historically, deer harvest figures were developed using a system of mandatory deer check stations in the 18 county Upstate (Game Zones 1, 2, & 4) in conjunction with reported harvests from properties enrolled in the Antlerless Deer Quota Program (ADQP) in the 28 county Coastal Plain (Game Zones 3 & 5-11). This system yielded an actual count of harvested deer and was, therefore, an absolute minimum harvest figure. Shortcomings in this system included deterioration of check station compliance in the Upstate and failure to report by ADQP cooperators in the Coastal Plain. Also, since the acreage enrolled in the ADQP tends to be about one-half of the deer habitat in the Coastal Plain, past harvest figures have not documented deer harvests on non-quota lands (+- 4

million acres) because there was no legal requirement to report harvested deer in the Coastal Plain. Therefore, it is suspected that historic deer harvest figures only accounted for about one-half of the total deer harvest that occurred annually in the state.

Survey Methodology

The 2006 Deer Hunter Survey represents a near random mail survey that involved a single mail-out. The questionnaire for the 2006 Deer Hunter Survey was developed by Wildlife Section personnel (Figure 1). The mailing list database was constructed by randomly selecting 25,000 known Big Game Permit holders that included 5 license types, the first 3 of which have a Big Game Permit included. The license types included: (1) Resident Sportsman 's, (2) Resident Combination, (3) Resident Junior Sportsman 's, (4) Resident Big Game Permit, and (5) Non-resident Big Game Permit. The number of individuals associated with each license type was based on an attempted sampling rate of approximately 15 percent for licenses purchased through December of 2006. Since deer seasons statewide end on January 1 there was no need to sample individuals that were licensed thereafter.

Experience gained from past survey efforts indicated that even though licenses used to construct the database for each license type are randomly selected, there are biases associated with counties being either under or over-represented. In order to avoid this identified form of bias, a minimum number of each type of license from every county was randomly selected and entered. The final mailing list for each license type was then randomly selected from each license type database.

Statistical analysis was conducted using Statistix 7 (Analytical Software, Tallahassee, FL).

Acknowledgments

Special thanks are due DNR Licensing personnel for their cooperation in building the licensee database and data entry associated with the completed surveys. Specifically, thanks go to Bryan Kyzer for his overall cooperation as Licensing Coordinator and Vanessa Calhoun, Chereice Dowdy, Tiffany Green, Marilyn Jumper, Lori Harrelson, Angela Hoyle, and Andrea

Seigler for their outstanding data entry. Thanks to Jay Butfiloski, DNR Furbearer Project supervisor, for his considerable efforts in data entry form design.

Thanks to South Carolina deer hunters. Funding for this report, as well as all activities related to the Statewide Deer Research and Management Project, is made possible through hunters' participation in antlerless deer tag programs.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

As with any mail survey, a portion of the attempted sample (25,000) was returned as undeliverable mail (1,076). Therefore, the actual attempted sample was 23,924 representing 15.6 percent of the entire population (153,547) of license holders. A total of 6,039 completed surveys were returned yielding a 25.2 percent response rate and 4.0 percent sampling rate on the entire licensee population. Response rates for resident hunters was less (24.7 percent) than for non-residents (27.9 percent).

Deer Harvest

During the 2006 deer season it is estimated that a total of 115,917 bucks and 105,403 does were harvested for a statewide total of 221,320 deer (Table 1). This figure represents a 9.3 percent decrease in harvest from 2005 (244,045) and a 30 percent decrease from the record harvest established in 2002 (319,902). After many years of rapid increase, the deer population in South Carolina was relatively stable between 1995 and 2002. The reduction in harvest seen since 2002 can likely be attributable to several factors. (1) Although timber management activities stimulated the growth in South Carolina's deer population in the 1980s, considerable acreage is currently in even-aged pine stands that are greater than 10 years old, a situation that does not support deer densities at the same level as younger stands in which food and cover is more available. (2) Although deer hunter numbers in South Carolina have been relatively stable over time, the number of licensees that indicated that they hunted deer in 2006 decreased by 9.5 percent compared to 2005. This may be related to the dramatic increase in fuel costs since the hurricanes in the Gulf Coast Region during the fall of 2005. Interestingly, the deer harvest in 2006 decreased by virtually the same amount (9.3%) as the number of hunters.

Harvest Per Unit Area County Rankings

Comparisons can be made between deer harvests from the various counties in South Carolina if a harvest per unit area is established. Harvest per unit area standardizes the harvest among counties regardless of the size of individual counties. One measure of harvest rate is the

number of deer taken per square mile (640ac. = 1 mile²). When considering the estimated deer habitat that is available in South Carolina, the deer harvest rate in 2006 was 10.5 deer per square mile over the entire state (Table 2). Although the deer harvest has been down each of the last 4 years, this harvest rate should be considered extraordinary in comparison with other states. The top 5 counties for harvest per unit area were Bamberg (20.0 deer/mile²), Union (18.3 deer/mile²), Hampton (17.5 deer/mile²), Allendale (16.7 deer/mile²), and Chester (15.4 deer/mile²) (Table 2).

Deer Harvest Rankings by County

Total deer harvest from a county is not comparable among counties because there is no standard unit of comparison, i.e. counties vary in size and are, therefore, not directly comparable. However, it has become customary to rank the counties based on number of deer harvested (Table 3). The top 5 counties during 2006 were Orangeburg, Williamsburg, Colleton, Hampton, and Fairfield.

Deer Harvest on Wildlife Management Areas

Deer hunting on Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) remains popular in South Carolina with approximately 47,000 licensees having a WMA Permit. Wildlife Management Areas represent lands owned by DNR, other state owned lands enrolled in the WMA Program, US Forest Service lands enrolled in the WMA Program, and private and/or corporate lands that are leased by DNR as part of the WMA Program. Deer harvest figures for coastal WMAs are from check stations and are presented only for those WMA properties that have a deer check-in requirement. Deer harvest figures for upstate WMAs (Mountain and Central and Western Piedmont Hunt Units) were estimated by extrapolating the county deer harvest rates (deer/mi²) to the acreage of WMA land that falls within the respective counties comprising the WMA. This assumes that hunters on WMA lands exhibit effort and deer harvest patterns similar to those of the general licensee database that was surveyed. Finally, the estimated deer harvest on WMA lands is included in, not additive to, the county and statewide estimates found throughout this report.

During the 2006 season it is estimated that 4,522 bucks and 3,961 does were harvested for a total deer harvest on Wildlife Management Areas of 8,438 (Table 4). This figure represents an increase of approximately 3.2 percent from 2005. If hunter effort and deer harvest patterns of hunters on WMAs are similar to that of the general licensee database then it would require approximately 17,338 hunters 126,570 days to harvest that number of deer on WMAs in South Carolina in 2006.

Number of Deer Hunters

Even though all individuals receiving a survey were licensed to hunt deer, only 87.8 percent actually hunted deer. For residents, 86.6 percent of sampled licensees hunted deer and for non-residents 97.6 percent hunted deer. Extrapolating to the respective licensee populations yields 117,285 residents (Table 5) and 17,680 non-residents (Table 6) for a total of 134,965 deer hunters statewide during 2006. This figure is a 9.5 percent decrease from the 141,307 hunters in 2005. Counties with the highest estimates for individual hunters include Orangeburg, Fairfield, Laurens, Williamsburg, and Newberry for resident hunters (Table 5) and Hampton, Chester, Allendale, Fairfield and Union for non-residents (Table 6).

Hunting Success

For determination of hunting success only those individuals that actually hunted deer were included in the analysis and similarly, success was defined as harvesting at least one deer. Overall hunting success in 2006 was 74.2 percent, which should be considered extraordinary. Success rates for residents were slightly higher (74.6%, Table 5) than for non-residents (70.9%, Table 6). Estimates for resident and non-resident success rates for all counties are presented in Tables 5 and 6. Success rates for resident hunters were highest in Williamsburg, Lancaster, Clarendon, Orangeburg, and Bamberg. Non-residents experienced the highest success in Lexington, Florence, Dorchester, Union, and Clarendon counties. However, only Union county had appreciable numbers of non-resident hunters.

Hunter Effort

For the purposes of this survey hunter effort was measured in days with one day being defined as any portion of the day spent afield. Resident hunters averaged 15.7 days afield for a total of 1,845,688 days deer hunting and non-residents averaged 12.6 days for a total of 223,257 days (Table 7). These figures are virtually identical to figures from 2005. Total effort expended deer hunting in South Carolina during 2006 was estimated at 2,068,945 days (Table 7), down approximately 0.5 percent from 2005. The number of days devoted to deer hunting in South Carolina is very significant and points not only to the availability and popularity of deer as a game species, but to the obvious economic benefits related to this important natural resource. Previous surveys (2001) conducted by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service indicate that approximately 200 million dollars in direct retail sales are related to deer hunting in South Carolina annually.

The top 5 South Carolina counties for overall days of deer hunting during 2006 were the same as in 2005; Orangeburg, Colleton, Fairfield, Williamsburg, and Hampton counties (Table 7). Resident hunters expended the most hunting effort in Orangeburg, Williamsburg, Colleton, Fairfield, and Clarendon counties. Non-residents hunted the most in Hampton, Chester, Fairfield, Jasper, and Allendale counties and these 5 counties totaled 47 percent of all the non-resident deer hunting effort that took place in South Carolina in 2006.

Resident hunters who were successful at harvesting at least one deer averaged nearly 3 times as many days (21.3 days) afield as unsuccessful residents (7.9 days) (Table 7). Similarly, successful non-residents (15.5 days) averaged about 2 times the days afield when compared with unsuccessful non-residents (7.1 days).

The amount of effort required to harvest a deer varied between residents and non-residents and by the county hunted. On the average it took less time for non-residents to harvest a deer (7.34 days, Table 6) compared to residents (9.66 days, Table 5). This may be due to the fact that many non-residents hunt commercially where considerable preparation is done prior to the hunter's arrival. Also, there may be less selectivity with respect to deer harvested by non-residents. Counties requiring the least effort to harvest a deer included Beaufort, Hampton, Jasper, McCormick, and Clarendon for resident hunters (Table 5). On the other hand, non-

residents spent less time to harvest a deer in Berkeley, Williamsburg, Lexington, Georgetown, and Charleston and Darlington (tie) counties (Table 6), however, none of these counties exhibited what should be considered a high level of non-resident hunting activity.

Deer Harvest by Weapon Type and Weapons Utilization and Preference

All areas of South Carolina have long and liberal firearms seasons and the majority (78.9%) of deer are harvested with centerfire rifles (Table 8). Shotguns (11.5%) and archery equipment (6.2%) also contribute significantly to the overall deer harvest in the state, whereas, muzzleloaders, crossbows, and handguns combine to contribute less than 5 percent of the total harvest (Table 8).

Although rifles are used by approximately 90 percent of hunters, over 70 percent of hunters use multiple weapons during the course of the deer season (Table 9, Table 10). Resident hunters appear to be more flexible than non-residents in their use of multiple weapons and significantly more residents use archery equipment (23.0%) and shotguns (32.9%) than non-residents (15.6% archery and 12.6% shotguns) (Table 10). This finding has been consistent the last few years and two points can likely be made. First, since most aspects of deer hunting (travel, accommodations, etc.) are typically more convenient for residents, they may have more time to devote to becoming comfortable or proficient with additional weapons, in this case archery equipment. Second, shotguns are the customary weapon related to hunting deer with dogs and the argument can be made that dog hunting is being practiced more by residents than non-residents. The weapons utilization data supports this contention.

On the other hand, non-residents (22.0%) used muzzleloaders more frequently than residents (14.5%). Keep in mind that muzzleloader or primitive weapons seasons are only available in Game Zones 1, 2, and 4 (the Upstate). It is suspected that the high utilization of muzzleloaders by non-residents is related to the availability of this special season at an earlier date in South Carolina than in neighboring states. Also, the argument can be made that muzzleloaders require less commitment than archery equipment and would allow non-residents a comparatively easy method of harvesting deer during the special season. This finding has been consistent the last few years.

Unlike weapons utilization, weapons preference is the single weapon that a hunter prefers. Obviously, a majority (78.9%) of deer hunters prefer rifles (Table 11). However, there are several interesting points that can be made about preferences for other weapons based on residency. Shotguns are preferred significantly more by residents (9.0%) than non-residents (2.4%) and muzzleloaders are preferred more by non-residents (3.7%) than by residents (1.3%) (Table 12). The explanation of this situation is likely similar to that for weapons utilization in that, (1) residents do most of the dog hunting in the state and tend to use shotguns, and (2) non-residents use Muzzleloaders to take advantage of a special season that is not available as early in their home state.

Hunter Opinion Regarding Deer Numbers

The 2006 Deer Hunter Survey asked participants two opinion questions. The first question asked participants to compare the number of deer in the area they hunt most often with the number of deer in past years. Participants were given 3 choices; increasing, about the same, or decreasing. About half (52.8%) of hunters indicated that the number of deer in the area they hunted most often was about the same as in past years (Table 12). More hunters (28.1%) believed that the deer population was decreasing than increasing (19.1%). Significantly more residents (19.7%) than non-residents (15.2%) indicated that the population was increasing. On a scale of 1 to 3 with 1 being increasing, 2 being neutral, and 3 being decreasing, the overall mean rating of 2.08 suggests that hunters viewed the deer population as slightly decreasing. The opinion among hunters that the deer population is decreasing has been consistent the last few years. Harvest data and population reconstruction modeling supports this opinion.

Hunter Opinion Regarding the Management of Deer in South Carolina

The second question asked participants how they would rate the management of deer in South Carolina. Participants were given 5 choices; poor, fair, good, very good, or excellent. The most common response (39.5%) was that deer management in South Carolina was good which is a neutral rating. However, there were major differences in the perception of deer management based on residency. Significantly more resident hunters rated deer management as poor (10.1%) or fair (23.0%) compared to non-residents (7.1% and 16.1%), whereas, significantly more non-

residents rated deer management as very good (28.4%) or excellent (11.3%) compared to residents (20.8% and 6.1%). The overall mean rating was significantly different with residents ($\bar{x} = 2.89$) rating deer management slightly negative and non-residents ($\bar{x} = 3.21$) rating deer management slightly positive.

These results are not terribly surprising and may be more related to the typical perceptions of resident versus non-resident hunters than to the actual management of deer. On one hand, “deer management” in terms of season structure and bag limits is very appealing to non-residents because more opportunity exists in South Carolina than in most other states. It is no secret that there has been a tremendous influx of non-resident deer hunters into South Carolina. The desire on the part of non-residents to hunt in South Carolina is purely an artifact of liberal seasons/bag limits (opportunity) and has little to do with deer management. On the other hand, residents often express their concerns about the availability of land, the cost to hunt, and the impact on deer brought about by non-residents (competition). Residents often perceive that non-residents exploit the liberal seasons/bag limits which has an effect on their ability to manage deer. Many residents also believe that non-residents get more than they pay for in terms of license fees based on the liberal nature of South Carolina’s seasons/bag limits. Finally, there has been significant interest among many resident hunters in making changes that would effect deer management. Points for discussion have included uniform limits on bucks, tagging programs to provide for enforcement of limits, etc. Although the department is studying various options, nothing has been done related to these points of interest. That being the case, resident hunters may be disgruntled over the lack of action by the department, resulting in the slightly negative rating of deer management in the state.

Participation by Youth Hunters

There is increasing concern in South Carolina, as well as other states, over the recruitment of young hunters. Many states have noted a decline in hunter numbers in recent years with lack of recruitment and an aging hunter population likely being the cause. Although hunter numbers in South Carolina continue to remain relatively stable, this stability is in the face of a dramatically increasing human population. Therefore, the percentage of hunters in the population is decreasing in South Carolina.

Youth hunters, those under 16 years of age, are not required to have a hunting license in South Carolina. That being the case, youth hunters are not available to participate in a licensee based survey like the 2006 Deer Hunter Survey. For the same reason, data related to youth hunters has never been readily available to DNR. Based on past survey research, the average age of deer hunters in South Carolina is relatively old (\bar{x} age = 45 years). If significant numbers of youths are not being recruited, then the “aging-out” of hunters will inevitably lead to a decline in hunter numbers.

In an effort to quantify the participation of youths in deer hunting in South Carolina, the 2006 Deer Hunter Survey asked participants to indicate the number of youth deer hunters in their household and whether they killed any deer in 2006. Results indicate that approximately 20 percent of respondents’ had one or more youth deer hunters in their household. Extrapolating to the licensee population indicates that approximately 40,000 youth hunters participated in the 2006 deer season. Success rates among young deer hunters were low (9.7%) and it is suspected that this is related to their entry-level status and the likelihood that they accompanied their adult mentor on only a few outings. As survey results consistently indicate, it requires significant effort for hunters to exhibit high success rates (see Hunter Success and Hunter Effort). It is unclear if this level of participation by youths is sufficient to maintain or increase deer hunter numbers in South Carolina. Additional research will be required.

Wild Hog and Coyote Harvest

The 2006 Deer Hunter Survey also asked hunters to provide information on their wild hog and coyote harvesting activities. Documenting the harvest of these species has been difficult to accomplish in South Carolina, however, both wild hogs and coyotes are commonly taken incidental to deer hunting. On the one hand, wild or feral hogs are often thought of as “game” and there is a certain amount of sport associated with harvesting hogs. Wild hogs provide quality meat for the hunter and mature hogs can make a highly sought-after “trophy”. Wild hogs are not native to South Carolina or any part of the North American continent. They are descendants of European domestic hogs that escaped or were released dating back as far as the early Spanish explorers. Also, closed-range or fencing requirements for livestock did not arise until the 1900's and letting hogs “free-range” was common prior to fencing laws. Wild hogs

were historically associated with the major river flood plain systems in Coastal South Carolina. Unfortunately, recent relocations of wild hogs by hunters appear to be responsible for the species populating areas where they were not found in the past. Wild hogs directly compete with native species like deer and wild turkey for habitat and food, and hogs can do significant damage to the habitat and agricultural production through their rooting activities. Legislation passed during the 2005 session of the South Carolina General Assembly prohibits the release of hogs in the state (SC Code Section 50-16-25).

During 2006 an estimated 26,843 wild hogs were harvested by deer hunters in South Carolina (Table 15), a 15.8 percent increase from 2005 (23,166 hogs). Evidence of the presence of hogs in 42 of 46 counties was made by hunter harvest activities (38 of 46 counties in 2005). Statewide, approximately 1.22 hogs/mile² were harvested and the top 5 counties for wild hog harvest per unit area were Sumter (4.51 hogs/mile²), Allendale (4.29 hogs/mile²), Calhoun (4.27 hogs/mile²), Richland (4.03 hogs/mile²), and Darlington (3.80 hogs/mile²). With respect to river drainage systems, top counties for wild hog harvest per unit area include Allendale, Hampton, and Jasper in the lower Savannah River drainage and Calhoun, Richland, and Sumter counties in the Congaree/Wateree drainage.

On the other hand, coyotes are typically thought of as varmints that pose a threat to native game species. Like wild hogs, coyotes are a non-native species in South Carolina. Although a popular notion among hunters is that DNR released coyotes, the agency has never released coyotes in South Carolina. The occurrence of coyotes in the state is more recent than hogs and they appear to have gotten to the state by two methods, (1) natural movements from western states and (2) illegal importation. Coyotes were first documented in Oconee and Pickens Counties in 1978 and were thought to be linked to animals that were illegally imported for hunting purposes. Evidence for this includes an illegal importation case that was made and the fact that coyotes had not been documented in adjacent counties in Georgia and North Carolina. Within a few years coyotes began to appear in the western piedmont counties of Anderson, Abbeville, McCormick, etc. indicating a southeastern expansion from the original site. In the early 1980's coyotes were documented in Allendale County and were thought to be natural immigrants from Georgia since they had previously been documented in the adjacent Georgia counties. Coyotes from this source apparently populated to the Northeast until they

encountered the Santee Cooper Lakes. In the late 1980's coyotes were documented in the Pee Dee Region, again associated with illegal imports. In any event, by the mid-1990's coyotes had been documented in all South Carolina counties.

Sportsmen often voice concern over the presence of coyotes and the potential impact they have on game species such as deer. Though coyotes are one of the most adaptable animals, they are not designed to prey on big game. The coyote's diet is chiefly composed of small mammals (rats and mice), insects, and a variety of vegetable matter including fruits. Clearly, coyotes will take very young deer and deer that are sick or injured. However, there is no reason to believe that coyotes constitute a major threat to the deer population in South Carolina because they have not decimated deer in other Southeastern states. On the other hand, since coyotes share the same habitat and food requirements as foxes, competition between them can be important. For example, there has been a documented decline in the red fox population index as the coyote population has increased. In any event, DNR is currently participating in a multi-year study with researches at the Savannah River Site in Aiken County concerning the impact that coyotes may be having on deer. Specifically, the objective of this study is to determine potential impacts on deer fawn survival and recruitment.

Coyotes are not protected animals in South Carolina and hunters are allowed to harvest them throughout the year during daylight hours. During 2006 it is estimated that approximately 20,194 coyotes were harvested by deer hunters in South Carolina (Table 15), an increase of less than 1 percent from 2005 (20,159 coyotes). As in past years, there was evidence of coyotes being harvested in all counties. This was the second year in a row the coyote harvest by deer hunters did not increase substantially since it was first measured in 1999. This may indicate that coyote numbers have stabilized in many areas or that deer hunters are losing interest in killing them. Statewide approximately 0.92 coyotes/mile² were harvested and the top 5 counties for coyote harvest per unit area included Calhoun (2.97 coyotes/mile²), Saluda (2.64 coyotes/mile²), Edgefield (2.27 coyotes/mile²), McCormick (2.21 coyotes/mile²), and Chester (1.82 coyotes/mile²).

Supplementary Information

The following section is not related to the 2006 Big Game Hunter Survey, but is offered as information relevant to the state's deer population.

According to the South Carolina Department of Public Safety (SCDPS), the number of reported deer-vehicle collisions for 2006 was 1,466 (Table 16). Since reporting of deer vehicle collisions is contingent upon notification of some law enforcement agency and then SCDPS, this figure should be considered a minimum. Also, the reader should bear in mind that reporting criteria have changed over time.

Average body weights and antler characteristic of deer vary among the constituent counties in South Carolina and are dependent on deer density and available nutrition (Tables 17 and 18). Statewide averages for male deer indicate that 1.5 year old bucks average about 107 lbs. and 3.6 antler points while bucks 2.5 years old and older average about 138 lbs. and 6.5 antler points. Yearling (1.5 years old) females average approximately 88 lbs. while does 2.5 years old and older average nearly 101 lbs. This information is based on sampling completed between 1987 and 1994.

Peak breeding in the Upstate and Coastal Plain occurs during late October and early November (Figure 2). Harvest dates for deer in the piedmont mirror the breeding season with the vast majority of deer being harvested during the relatively short peak of breeding (Figure 3). In the Coastal Plain, however, the relationship between peak breeding and hunter harvest appears to be undermined by the early opening buck only seasons found in Coastal Game Zones. Opening early, coastal plain buck only seasons find deer in summer movement and behavior patterns, therefore, the animals are not as vulnerable to harvest as they are during the breeding season when movements are greatest. It is suspected that hunter disturbance during the early buck only season leads to a suppressed harvest during the breeding season when deer movements and hunter harvests should be greatest.

The history of the deer population and harvest in South Carolina demonstrates a trend typical of a species that initially expands into available habitat, stabilizes, and begins to decline as habitat changes (Figures 4 and 5). It is important to recognize that habitat is the primary factor controlling deer density in South Carolina, though regulated harvest is important as well.

Keep in mind that between 1750 and 1900 the deer population in South Carolina experienced a tremendous decline as it did in most of North America. Although unrestricted subsistence and commercial harvest of deer was important in the decline, major changes in habitat related to clearing of land for agriculture was the controlling factor.

By 1900 deer numbers in the State were very low, perhaps 20,000. However, in the 1920's, significant drought and the cotton bowl weevil had devastating consequences for farming. With the decline in farming, reforestation of the state began and was largely complete by the 1970's. Timber harvest activities that followed into and throughout the 1980's created vast areas of early successional habitat that allowed for a dramatic increase in the State's deer population. South Carolina's deer population peaked in the mid to late 1990's at just over 1,000,000 deer.

Over time, deer hunters have gained a better understanding of the relationship between deer numbers, habitat, and deer quality leading to more aggressive female harvests in many parts of the state. This increased emphasis on harvesting female deer as a means to control deer densities has played a role in the stabilization in the State's deer population. However, the overriding factor is habitat. Keep in mind that the same timber management activities that stimulated the growth in South Carolina's deer population in the 1980s have resulted in considerable acreage currently being in even-aged pine stands that are greater than 10 years old. This habitat type simply does not support deer densities at the same level as habitat in early stages of ecological succession. As a result, the deer population has trended down since 2000 and currently the population is estimated at about 725,000 deer, a level comparable with the mid 1980's.

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Table 1. Estimated statewide deer harvest in South Carolina in 2006.

County	Acres*	Square Miles	Buck Harvest	Doe Harvest	Total Harvest	Harvest Rates		% Change from 2005
						Ac/Deer	Deer/Mi. ²	
Abbeville	223,113	349	2,247	2,222	4,469	49.9	12.8	-24.1
Aiken	500,546	782	1,962	1,707	3,669	136.4	4.7	-37.0
Allendale	216,455	338	2,658	2,979	5,637	38.4	16.7	-19.7
Anderson	219,068	342	2,549	1,612	4,161	52.7	12.2	-12.1
Bamberg	196,573	307	3,025	3,103	6,128	32.1	20.0	-24.6
Barnwell	281,764	440	2,037	2,622	4,660	60.5	10.6	-11.1
Beaufort	147,441	230	1,489	971	2,461	59.9	10.7	25.4
Berkeley	567,530	887	2,208	2,268	4,477	126.8	5.0	-30.6
Calhoun	190,584	298	2,477	1,841	4,318	44.1	14.5	-15.4
Charleston	288,732	451	1,997	2,401	4,398	65.7	9.7	-23.3
Cherokee	156,664	245	1,694	1,368	3,062	51.2	12.5	-24.7
Chester	300,589	470	2,783	4,442	7,225	41.6	15.4	-3.4
Chesterfield	372,478	582	2,725	1,661	4,386	84.9	7.5	8.4
Clarendon	298,087	466	3,903	2,741	6,644	44.9	14.3	46.5
Colleton	502,666	785	5,245	3,988	9,232	54.4	11.8	-9.3
Darlington	286,228	447	956	989	1,945	147.2	4.3	11.3
Dillon	214,069	334	779	744	1,523	140.5	4.6	-6.0
Dorchester	302,717	473	1,957	2,232	4,188	72.3	8.9	4.6
Edgefield	246,543	385	2,344	2,101	4,445	55.5	11.5	0.3
Fairfield	384,607	601	4,508	3,467	7,975	48.2	13.3	-24.3
Florence	397,888	622	3,850	2,762	6,612	60.2	10.6	26.1
Georgetown	399,638	624	1,839	1,981	3,820	104.6	6.1	10.3
Greenville	294,257	460	1,145	989	2,133	137.9	4.6	86.5
Greenwood	204,400	319	2,291	2,607	4,898	41.7	15.3	0.9
Hampton	324,840	508	4,387	4,481	8,868	36.6	17.5	-19.0
Horry	533,336	833	2,181	1,687	3,869	137.9	4.6	-5.9
Jasper	309,889	484	2,868	2,859	5,727	54.1	11.8	22.2
Kershaw	360,485	563	2,266	1,994	4,260	84.6	7.6	-38.0
Lancaster	266,382	416	2,791	2,712	5,503	48.4	13.2	-6.1
Laurens	317,916	497	2,842	3,159	6,001	53.0	12.1	-5.8
Lee	220,106	344	2,010	1,802	3,813	57.7	11.1	27.6
Lexington	280,742	439	1,006	750	1,757	159.8	4.0	-35.6
McCormick	212,021	331	2,657	1,857	4,514	47.0	13.6	10.4
Marion	216,907	339	1,368	1,593	2,960	73.3	8.7	-1.3
Marlboro	281,271	439	2,123	1,206	3,329	84.5	7.6	27.3
Newberry	317,761	497	3,015	2,507	5,523	57.5	11.1	-31.0
Oconee	284,348	444	658	173	831	342.2	1.9	-8.4
Orangeburg	504,516	788	6,169	5,175	11,344	44.5	14.4	-12.0
Pickens	219,926	344	658	398	1,056	208.2	3.1	-28.3
Richland	340,121	531	2,711	2,099	4,809	70.7	9.0	-9.9
Saluda	192,173	300	2,055	1,810	3,865	49.7	12.9	6.2
Spartanburg	265,939	416	2,571	2,813	5,383	49.4	13.0	-5.7
Sumter	338,968	530	2,253	1,785	4,038	84.0	7.6	-16.8
Union	258,111	403	3,674	3,723	7,397	34.9	18.3	-6.8
Williamsburg	513,851	803	4,899	5,006	9,906	51.9	12.3	0.7
York	276,650	432	2,089	2,012	4,100	67.5	9.5	-28.7
Total	14,028,896	21,920	115,917	105,403	221,320	79.3	10.5	-9.3
95% Confidence Interval for harvest			(+ -) 4,086	(+ -) 4,124	(+ -) 6,918			

* Acreage shown represents the acreage of forested land and acreage of row crops considered to be significant deer habitat within each county.

Table 2. County rankings based on deer harvested per unit area in South Carolina in 2006.

County	Acres*	Square Miles	Buck Harvest	Doe Harvest	Total Harvest	Harvest Rates		% Change from 2005
						Ac/Deer	Deer/Mi. ²	
Bamberg	196,573	307	3,025	3,103	6,128	32.1	20.0	-24.6
Union	258,111	403	3,674	3,723	7,397	34.9	18.3	-6.8
Hampton	324,840	508	4,387	4,481	8,868	36.6	17.5	-19.0
Allendale	216,455	338	2,658	2,979	5,637	38.4	16.7	-19.7
Chester	300,589	470	2,783	4,442	7,225	41.6	15.4	-3.4
Greenwood	204,400	319	2,291	2,607	4,898	41.7	15.3	0.9
Calhoun	190,584	298	2,477	1,841	4,318	44.1	14.5	-15.4
Orangeburg	504,516	788	6,169	5,175	11,344	44.5	14.4	-12.0
Clarendon	298,087	466	3,903	2,741	6,644	44.9	14.3	46.5
McCormick	212,021	331	2,657	1,857	4,514	47.0	13.6	10.4
Fairfield	384,607	601	4,508	3,467	7,975	48.2	13.3	-24.3
Lancaster	266,382	416	2,791	2,712	5,503	48.4	13.2	-6.1
Spartanburg	265,939	416	2,571	2,813	5,383	49.4	13.0	-5.7
Saluda	192,173	300	2,055	1,810	3,865	49.7	12.9	6.2
Abbeville	223,113	349	2,247	2,222	4,469	49.9	12.8	-24.1
Cherokee	156,664	245	1,694	1,368	3,062	51.2	12.5	-24.7
Williamsburg	513,851	803	4,899	5,006	9,906	51.9	12.3	0.7
Anderson	219,068	342	2,549	1,612	4,161	52.7	12.2	-12.1
Laurens	317,916	497	2,842	3,159	6,001	53.0	12.1	-5.8
Jasper	309,889	484	2,868	2,859	5,727	54.1	11.8	22.2
Colleton	502,666	785	5,245	3,988	9,232	54.4	11.8	-9.3
Edgefield	246,543	385	2,344	2,101	4,445	55.5	11.5	0.3
Newberry	317,761	497	3,015	2,507	5,523	57.5	11.1	-31.0
Lee	220,106	344	2,010	1,802	3,813	57.7	11.1	27.6
Beaufort	147,441	230	1,489	971	2,461	59.9	10.7	25.4
Florence	397,888	622	3,850	2,762	6,612	60.2	10.6	26.1
Barnwell	281,764	440	2,037	2,622	4,660	60.5	10.6	-11.1
Charleston	288,732	451	1,997	2,401	4,398	65.7	9.7	-23.3
York	276,650	432	2,089	2,012	4,100	67.5	9.5	-28.7
Richland	340,121	531	2,711	2,099	4,809	70.7	9.0	-9.9
Dorchester	302,717	473	1,957	2,232	4,188	72.3	8.9	4.6
Marion	216,907	339	1,368	1,593	2,960	73.3	8.7	-1.3
Sumter	338,968	530	2,253	1,785	4,038	84.0	7.6	-16.8
Marlboro	281,271	439	2,123	1,206	3,329	84.5	7.6	27.3
Kershaw	360,485	563	2,266	1,994	4,260	84.6	7.6	-38.0
Chesterfield	372,478	582	2,725	1,661	4,386	84.9	7.5	8.4
Georgetown	399,638	624	1,839	1,981	3,820	104.6	6.1	10.3
Berkeley	567,530	887	2,208	2,268	4,477	126.8	5.0	-30.6
Aiken	500,546	782	1,962	1,707	3,669	136.4	4.7	-37.0
Horry	533,336	833	2,181	1,687	3,869	137.9	4.6	-5.9
Greenville	294,257	460	1,145	989	2,133	137.9	4.6	86.5
Dillon	214,069	334	779	744	1,523	140.5	4.6	-6.0
Darlington	286,228	447	956	989	1,945	147.2	4.3	11.3
Lexington	280,742	439	1,006	750	1,757	159.8	4.0	-35.6
Pickens	219,926	344	658	398	1,056	208.2	3.1	-28.3
Oconee	284,348	444	658	173	831	342.2	1.9	-8.4
Total	14,028,896	21,920	115,917	105,403	221,320	79.3	10.5	-9.3

Table 3. County rankings based on total deer harvested in South Carolina in 2006.

County	Acres*	Square Miles	Buck Harvest	Doe Harvest	Total Harvest	Harvest Rates		% Change from 2005
						Ac/Deer	Deer/Mi. ²	
Orangeburg	504,516	788	6,169	5,175	11,344	44.5	14.4	-12.0
Williamsburg	513,851	803	4,899	5,006	9,906	51.9	12.3	0.7
Colleton	502,666	785	5,245	3,988	9,232	54.4	11.8	-9.3
Hampton	324,840	508	4,387	4,481	8,868	36.6	17.5	-19.0
Fairfield	384,607	601	4,508	3,467	7,975	48.2	13.3	-24.3
Union	258,111	403	3,674	3,723	7,397	34.9	18.3	-6.8
Chester	300,589	470	2,783	4,442	7,225	41.6	15.4	-3.4
Clarendon	298,087	466	3,903	2,741	6,644	44.9	14.3	46.5
Florence	397,888	622	3,850	2,762	6,612	60.2	10.6	26.1
Bamberg	196,573	307	3,025	3,103	6,128	32.1	20.0	-24.6
Laurens	317,916	497	2,842	3,159	6,001	53.0	12.1	-5.8
Jasper	309,889	484	2,868	2,859	5,727	54.1	11.8	22.2
Allendale	216,455	338	2,658	2,979	5,637	38.4	16.7	-19.7
Newberry	317,761	497	3,015	2,507	5,523	57.5	11.1	-31.0
Lancaster	266,382	416	2,791	2,712	5,503	48.4	13.2	-6.1
Spartanburg	265,939	416	2,571	2,813	5,383	49.4	13.0	-5.7
Greenwood	204,400	319	2,291	2,607	4,898	41.7	15.3	0.9
Richland	340,121	531	2,711	2,099	4,809	70.7	9.0	-9.9
Barnwell	281,764	440	2,037	2,622	4,660	60.5	10.6	-11.1
McCormick	212,021	331	2,657	1,857	4,514	47.0	13.6	10.4
Berkeley	567,530	887	2,208	2,268	4,477	126.8	5.0	-30.6
Abbeville	223,113	349	2,247	2,222	4,469	49.9	12.8	-24.1
Edgefield	246,543	385	2,344	2,101	4,445	55.5	11.5	0.3
Charleston	288,732	451	1,997	2,401	4,398	65.7	9.7	-23.3
Chesterfield	372,478	582	2,725	1,661	4,386	84.9	7.5	8.4
Calhoun	190,584	298	2,477	1,841	4,318	44.1	14.5	-15.4
Kershaw	360,485	563	2,266	1,994	4,260	84.6	7.6	-38.0
Dorchester	302,717	473	1,957	2,232	4,188	72.3	8.9	4.6
Anderson	219,068	342	2,549	1,612	4,161	52.7	12.2	-12.1
York	276,650	432	2,089	2,012	4,100	67.5	9.5	-28.7
Sumter	338,968	530	2,253	1,785	4,038	84.0	7.6	-16.8
Horry	533,336	833	2,181	1,687	3,869	137.9	4.6	-5.9
Saluda	192,173	300	2,055	1,810	3,865	49.7	12.9	6.2
Georgetown	399,638	624	1,839	1,981	3,820	104.6	6.1	10.3
Lee	220,106	344	2,010	1,802	3,813	57.7	11.1	27.6
Aiken	500,546	782	1,962	1,707	3,669	136.4	4.7	-37.0
Marlboro	281,271	439	2,123	1,206	3,329	84.5	7.6	27.3
Cherokee	156,664	245	1,694	1,368	3,062	51.2	12.5	-24.7
Marion	216,907	339	1,368	1,593	2,960	73.3	8.7	-1.3
Beaufort	147,441	230	1,489	971	2,461	59.9	10.7	25.4
Greenville	294,257	460	1,145	989	2,133	137.9	4.6	86.5
Darlington	286,228	447	956	989	1,945	147.2	4.3	11.3
Lexington	280,742	439	1,006	750	1,757	159.8	4.0	-35.6
Dillon	214,069	334	779	744	1,523	140.5	4.6	-6.0
Pickens	219,926	344	658	398	1,056	208.2	3.1	-28.3
Oconee	284,348	444	658	173	831	342.2	1.9	-8.4
Total	14,028,896	21,920	115,917	105,403	221,320	79.3	10.5	-9.3

Table 4. Estimated deer harvest on Wildlife Management Areas in South Carolina in 2006

Area	Acreage	Bucks	Does	Total	Deer/Mi. ²
Mountain Hunt Unit	193,566	533	266	799	2.6
Central Piedmont Hunt Unit	159,793	1,814	1,787	3,601	14.4
Western Piedmont Hunt Unit	119,077	1,317	1,114	2,430	13.1
Subtotal for Upstate WMA's	472,436	3,664	3,167	6,831	9.3
Coastal WMA's*					
Bear Island WMA	1,519	12	13	25	10.5
Bonneau Ferry	10,697	56	43	99	5.9
Crackerneck WMA	10,470	79	49	128	7.8
Cross Generating Station WMA	654	10	12	22	21.5
Donnelley WMA	8,048	18	64	82	6.5
Edisto River WMA	1,400	4	0	4	1.8
Francis Marion WMA	252,578	435	338	773	2.0
Hamilton Ridge	13,281	19	44	63	3.0
Hickory Top WMA	1,836	5	7	12	4.2
Manchester State Forest WMA	25,505	69	44	113	2.8
Moultrie WMA	9,480	46	29	75	5.1
Oak Lea WMA	2,024	8	23	31	9.8
Palachucola WMA	5,947	34	40	74	8.0
Santee Coastal Reserve WMA	5,000	9	7	16	2.0
Santee Cooper WMA	2,828	21	26	47	10.6
Victoria Bluff WMA	800	14	11	25	20.0
Webb Wildlife Center WMA	5,866	19	44	63	6.9
Subtotal for Coastal WMA's	357,933	858	794	1,652	3.0
Total	830,369	4,522	3,961	8,483	6.5

*Check Station data

Table 5. Resident deer hunter and deer harvest statistics in South Carolina in 2006.

County	Number Hunters	Man/Days Hunted	Percent Success	Deer/Hunter	Days/Deer	Buck Harvest	Doe Harvest	Total Harvest
Abbeville	3,324	39,437	72.4	1.29	9.22	2,112	2,164	4,276
Aiken	2,908	42,083	66.7	1.21	11.97	1,904	1,610	3,514
Allendale	2,043	31,577	73.7	1.72	8.99	1,558	1,956	3,514
Anderson	2,804	41,010	76.5	1.46	10.00	2,510	1,593	4,103
Bamberg	2,960	39,365	80.1	1.56	8.52	2,233	2,389	4,622
Barnwell	2,147	38,865	74.2	1.53	11.82	1,420	1,870	3,289
Beaufort	1,177	13,589	73.5	2.07	5.57	1,489	952	2,441
Berkeley	2,839	46,740	76.5	1.48	11.11	2,112	2,095	4,207
Calhoun	2,510	41,167	77.2	1.70	9.67	2,476	1,783	4,258
Charleston	2,458	41,340	77.5	1.72	9.79	1,939	2,285	4,224
Cherokee	1,246	27,491	69.4	2.07	10.66	1,385	1,194	2,579
Chester	2,649	48,298	76.4	1.82	10.04	1,818	2,995	4,813
Chesterfield	2,216	50,757	76.5	1.65	13.90	2,320	1,333	3,653
Clarendon	2,424	52,124	81.4	2.69	8.01	3,826	2,683	6,509
Colleton	3,618	69,558	77.0	2.12	9.07	4,241	3,428	7,669
Darlington	1,489	21,501	68.6	1.27	11.39	918	969	1,887
Dillon	1,004	15,996	75.8	1.52	10.50	779	744	1,523
Dorchester	2,025	39,729	77.8	1.91	10.29	1,783	2,077	3,860
Edgefield	3,081	41,686	69.7	1.24	10.95	1,939	1,870	3,808
Fairfield	4,674	63,465	68.9	1.36	9.99	3,601	2,753	6,353
Florence	2,926	51,950	78.1	2.15	8.27	3,618	2,666	6,284
Georgetown	1,922	34,260	77.5	1.93	9.25	1,800	1,904	3,705
Greenville	2,077	24,166	65.0	1.01	11.54	1,125	970	2,095
Greenwood	2,718	42,551	75.2	1.75	8.97	2,233	2,510	4,744
Hampton	2,770	35,141	76.3	1.73	7.33	2,302	2,493	4,795
Horry	1,904	37,773	74.5	1.99	9.96	2,181	1,610	3,791
Jasper	1,627	29,447	79.8	2.30	7.88	1,749	1,991	3,739
Kershaw	2,856	45,374	75.2	1.31	12.13	2,112	1,627	3,739
Lancaster	2,285	43,451	81.8	1.90	10.00	2,250	2,095	4,345
Laurens	3,843	50,826	70.7	1.45	9.15	2,649	2,908	5,557
Lee	2,268	33,464	78.6	1.66	8.87	1,991	1,783	3,774
Lexington	2,095	19,701	72.7	0.80	11.73	987	693	1,679
McCormick	2,510	32,251	72.4	1.61	7.96	2,406	1,645	4,051
Marion	1,627	26,036	76.6	1.82	8.80	1,368	1,593	2,960
Marlboro	1,437	34,035	79.5	2.05	11.56	1,852	1,091	2,943
Newberry	3,566	49,149	71.4	1.36	10.14	2,649	2,199	4,847
Oconee	1,333	16,325	53.2	0.62	19.65	658	173	831
Orangeburg	5,470	89,102	80.7	1.91	8.52	5,609	4,847	10,456
Pickens	1,800	16,498	71.1	0.59	15.62	658	398	1,056
Richland	3,185	49,095	73.9	1.47	10.50	2,614	2,060	4,674
Saluda	2,493	42,102	74.3	1.47	11.53	1,939	1,714	3,653
Spartanburg	3,116	48,941	72.8	1.57	10.03	2,320	2,562	4,882
Sumter	2,527	40,040	72.6	1.58	10.01	2,233	1,766	3,999
Union	3,237	43,036	78.1	1.65	8.07	2,458	2,874	5,332
Williamsburg	3,687	72,187	84.5	2.40	8.14	4,224	4,639	8,863
York	2,406	33,012	65.5	1.30	10.59	1,645	1,471	3,116
Total	117,285	1,845,688	74.6	1.63	9.66	99,991	91,024	191,015
% Change from 2004	-6.0	-0.7	3.10	-4.3	10.0	-6.8	-15.2	-10.8

Table 6. Non-resident hunter and deer harvest statistics in South Carolina in 2006.

County	Number Hunters	Man/Days Hunted	Percent Success	Deer/Hunter	Days/Deer	Buck Harvest	Doe Harvest	Total Harvest
Abbeville	193	2,542	70.0	1.00	13.17	135	58	193
Aiken	174	1,547	55.5	0.89	10.02	58	97	154
Allendale	1,351	12,634	62.8	1.57	5.95	1,100	1,023	2,123
Anderson	58	560	66.7	1.00	9.67	39	19	58
Bamberg	926	10,654	75.0	1.63	7.08	791	714	1,506
Barnwell	560	10,500	79.3	2.45	7.66	618	753	1,370
Beaufort	97	463	80.0	1.00	23.51	0	19	20
Berkeley	77	540	75.0	3.50	2.00	97	174	270
Calhoun	97	888	60.0	0.60	14.88	2	58	60
Charleston	97	869	80.0	1.80	5.00	58	116	174
Cherokee	270	5,501	64.3	1.79	11.40	309	174	483
Chester	1,467	17,776	76.3	1.64	7.37	965	1,448	2,413
Chesterfield	463	7,624	58.3	1.58	10.39	405	328	733
Clarendon	116	1,119	83.3	1.17	8.29	77	58	135
Colleton	637	10,519	75.7	2.45	6.73	1,004	560	1,563
Darlington	97	290	80.0	0.60	5.00	39	19	58
Dillon	39	97	0.0	0.00	NA	0	0	0
Dorchester	135	2,567	85.7	2.43	7.82	174	154	328
Edgefield	386	4,536	70.0	1.65	7.12	405	232	637
Fairfield	965	16,155	74.0	1.68	9.96	907	714	1,621
Florence	116	1,969	100.0	2.83	6.00	232	97	328
Georgetown	97	463	80.0	1.20	4.00	39	77	116
Greenville	116	714	16.7	0.33	18.50	19	19	39
Greenwood	154	1,583	75.0	1.00	10.25	58	97	154
Hampton	2,220	30,360	66.1	1.83	7.45	2,084	1,988	4,073
Horry	77	425	50.0	1.00	5.50	0	77	77
Jasper	849	14,225	70.5	2.34	7.16	1,119	869	1,988
Kershaw	502	3,185	65.4	1.04	6.11	154	367	521
Lancaster	560	7,527	75.9	2.07	6.50	540	618	1,158
Laurens	405	5,327	47.6	1.10	12.00	193	251	444
Lee	77	656	50.0	0.50	17.00	19	19	39
Lexington	58	251	100.0	1.33	3.25	19	58	77
McCormick	290	2,895	73.3	1.60	6.25	251	212	463
Marion	0	0	0.0	0.00	#DIV/0!	0	0	0
Marlboro	193	3,436	70.0	2.00	8.90	270	116	386
Newberry	483	4,922	76.0	1.40	7.29	367	309	676
Oconee	97	656	60.0	0.40	0.00	0	0	0
Orangeburg	656	6,350	76.5	1.35	7.15	560	328	888
Pickens	116	444	50.0	0.00	#DIV/0!	0	0	0
Richland	154	830	50.0	0.88	6.14	97	39	135
Saluda	135	1,467	71.4	1.57	6.91	116	97	212
Spartanburg	212	3,281	72.7	2.36	6.54	251	251	502
Sumter	116	1,158	50.0	0.33	29.99	19	19	39
Union	907	12,604	85.1	2.28	6.10	1,216	849	2,065
Williamsburg	290	3,301	93.3	3.60	3.17	676	367	1,042
York	598	7,045	77.4	1.65	7.16	444	540	984
TOTAL	17,680	222,454	70.9	1.72	7.34	15,926	14,379	30,305
% Change from 2005	4.3	1.5	-4.2	-11.6	8.1	-4.5	-8.8	-6.5

Table 7. Hunting effort (man/days) by county for successful and unsuccessful resident and non-resident deer hunters in South Carolina in 2006.

County	Residents (man/days)			Total Effort Residents	Non-Residents (man/days)			Total Effort Non-residents	Total Days
	Successful	Unsuccessful	Average		Successful	Unsuccessful	Average		
Abbeville	15.3	7.4	11.9	39,437	19.5	5.3	13.8	2,664	42,342
Aiken	22.4	8.8	14.5	42,083	15.4	1.8	9.3	1,621	43,914
Allendale	21.3	6.2	15.5	31,577	12.7	5.1	9.8	13,241	46,266
Anderson	19.5	7.0	14.6	41,010	10.5	8.0	9.7	560	41,658
Bamberg	15.7	9.2	13.3	39,365	13.5	7.4	11.5	10,654	51,027
Barnwell	23.7	9.8	18.1	38,865	22.0	6.5	18.8	10,500	50,001
Beaufort	15.7	5.3	11.5	13,589	5.3	3.0	4.8	463	14,167
Berkeley	21.1	10.5	16.5	46,740	8.3	3.0	7.0	540	47,380
Calhoun	22.2	5.4	16.4	41,167	5.3	15.0	9.2	888	42,186
Charleston	22.3	7.9	16.8	41,340	10.3	4.0	9.0	869	42,333
Cherokee	29.5	8.8	22.1	27,491	27.4	11.0	20.4	5,501	33,335
Chester	23.5	8.5	18.2	48,298	14.3	8.6	12.1	17,776	67,652
Chesterfield	37.0	8.8	22.9	50,757	23.1	7.2	16.5	7,624	58,914
Clarendon	27.0	9.5	21.5	52,124	11.0	3.0	9.7	1,119	53,389
Colleton	25.2	8.9	19.2	69,558	18.4	10.5	16.5	10,519	80,792
Darlington	20.5	8.9	14.4	21,501	2.7	3.5	3.0	290	21,901
Dillon	20.9	7.7	15.9	15,996	0.0	2.5	2.5	97	16,138
Dorchester	25.6	8.6	19.6	39,729	20.8	8.0	19.0	2,567	42,486
Edgefield	19.9	5.9	13.5	41,686	14.9	4.3	11.8	4,536	46,659
Fairfield	18.6	7.6	13.6	63,465	20.5	9.4	16.7	16,155	80,682
Florence	22.8	7.1	17.8	51,950	17.0	0.0	17.0	1,969	54,075
Georgetown	21.9	10.1	17.8	34,260	5.3	3.0	4.8	463	34,837
Greenville	16.8	6.5	11.6	24,166	10.0	5.4	6.2	714	25,024
Greenwood	20.7	7.0	15.7	42,551	14.2	3.7	10.3	1,583	44,325
Hampton	16.3	8.1	12.7	35,141	17.4	7.6	13.7	30,360	67,875
Horry	26.5	8.6	19.8	37,773	6.0	5.3	5.5	425	38,296
Jasper	26.7	4.9	18.1	29,447	22.5	4.4	16.8	14,225	44,609
Kershaw	19.9	11.1	15.9	45,374	8.5	4.2	6.3	3,185	49,105
Lancaster	21.7	12.9	19.0	43,451	14.8	9.3	13.4	7,527	51,605
Laurens	18.3	6.7	13.2	50,826	12.5	13.7	13.1	5,327	56,618
Lee	20.8	6.4	14.8	33,464	9.0	8.0	8.5	656	34,227
Lexington	13.6	5.3	9.4	19,701	3.5	6.0	4.3	251	20,026
McCormick	17.5	6.5	12.8	32,251	11.9	4.8	10.0	2,895	35,477
Marion	20.1	9.0	16.0	26,036	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	26,036
Marlboro	29.9	11.6	23.7	34,035	22.4	7.0	17.8	3,436	37,721
Newberry	19.4	6.8	13.8	49,149	13.1	5.9	10.2	4,922	54,607
Oconee	14.3	11.1	12.2	16,325	4.0	8.7	6.8	656	17,102
Orangeburg	21.9	6.5	16.3	89,102	11.6	5.1	9.7	6,350	96,169
Pickens	14.7	6.2	9.2	16,498	0.0	3.8	3.8	444	17,071
Richland	20.0	9.4	15.4	49,095	5.5	5.3	5.4	830	50,104
Saluda	23.3	6.5	16.9	42,102	16.8	3.0	10.9	1,467	43,741
Spartanburg	22.5	7.4	15.7	48,941	17.1	11.0	15.5	3,281	52,489
Sumter	22.0	7.7	15.8	40,040	20.0	5.0	10.0	1,158	41,355
Union	17.9	5.4	13.3	43,036	14.6	10.8	13.9	12,604	56,633
Williamsburg	24.0	9.3	19.6	72,187	12.0	3.0	11.4	3,301	75,818
York	18.5	8.6	13.7	33,012	13.0	7.6	11.8	7,045	40,718
Total	21.3	7.9	15.7	1,845,688	15.5	7.1	12.6	223,257	2,068,945
% Change from 2005	5.9	-16.4	4.6	-0.7	-1.3	-18.3	-2.4	1.80	-0.5

Table 8. Estimated deer harvest by weapon type in South Carolina in 2006.

	Rifle	Bow & Arrow	Shotgun	Muzzle-loader	Crossbow	Handgun	Total
Number of Deer Harvested	174,621	13,722	25,452	6,197	443	885	221,320
Percent Total Deer Harvest	78.9	6.2	11.5	2.8	0.2	0.4	100.0
Percent Hunter Success With Weapon	68.1	29.2	40.3	31.2	19.7	16.8	NA*

* Total is not applicable because individual hunters take deer with multiple weapons.

Table 9. Number of hunters using each type of weapon in South Carolina in 2006.

	Rifle	Bow & Arrow	Shotgun	Muzzle-loader	Crossbow	Handgun
Residents	108,254	26,976	38,587	17,006	1,642	5,043
Non-Residents	16,708	2,758	2,228	3,890	301	902
Total	124,962	29,734	40,814	20,896	1,943	5,945

Total across weapons not given because hunters use multiple weapons. Total hunters = 134,680.

Table 10. Weapons utilization (percent) among deer hunters in South Carolina in 2006.

	Rifle	Bow & Arrow	Shotgun	Muzzle-loader	Crossbow	Handgun
Residents	92.3*	23.0*	32.9*	14.5*	1.4	4.3
Non-Residents	94.5	15.6	12.6	22.0	1.7	5.1
Total	92.7	21.9	29.9	15.6	1.4	4.4

* Significant difference in weapons use category based on residency.

Table 11. Weapons preference (percent) among deer hunters in South Carolina in 2006.

	Rifle	Bow & Arrow	Shotgun	Muzzle-loader	Crossbow	Handgun	Total
Residents	78.0	10.6	9.0*	1.3*	0.3	0.8	100.0
Non-Residents	83.8	8.9	2.4	3.7	0.5	0.7	100.0
Total	78.9	10.4	8.0	1.6	0.3	0.8	100.0

* Significant difference in weapons preference category based on residency.

Table 12. Hunter opinion (percent) regarding the number of deer in the area hunted most often in South Carolina in 2006 compared to previous years.

	Increasing	About the Same	Decreasing
Residents	19.7*	52.5	27.8
Non-Residents	15.2	55.1	29.6
Overall	19.1	52.8	28.1

* Significant differences based on residency.

Table 13. Hunter opinion (percent) regarding the management of deer in South Carolina.

	Management Rating				
	Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent
Residents	10.1*	23.0*	39.9	20.8*	6.1*
Non-Residents	7.1	16.1	37.1	28.4	11.3
Overall	9.7	22.1	39.5	21.8	6.8

* Significant difference based on residency.

Table 14. Estimated wild hog and coyote harvest by deer hunters in South Carolina in 2006.

County	Hog Harv.	Harv./Mile ²	% Change from 2005	2006 Rank	2005 Rank	Coyote Harv.	Harv./Mile ²	% Change from 2005	2006 Rank	2005 Rank
Abbeville	1,094	3.14	136.3	6	15	405	1.16	-36.3	18	6
Aiken	804	1.03	-44.4	18	10	597	0.76	-6.2	27	25
Allendale	1,452	4.29	-9.3	2	1	563	1.67	-28.7	7	3
Anderson	268	0.78	-18.3	23	18	528	1.54	-14.4	9	7
Bamberg	558	1.82	11.4	12	13	402	1.31	-30.5	13	5
Barnwell	67	0.15	-61.3	37	29	318	0.72	-13.1	28	24
Beaufort	0	0.00	-100.0	43	21	33	0.15	-71.1	45	37
Berkeley	357	0.40	-42.1	29	23	128	0.14	-71.0	46	37
Calhoun	1,273	4.27	15.8	3	2	886	2.97	9.5	1	1
Charleston	893	1.98	-3.4	11	8	223	0.50	15.7	36	41
Cherokee	0	0.00	0.0	43	39	258	1.06	49.4	19	30
Chester	22	0.05	-42.7	40	36	854	1.82	10.8	5	8
Chesterfield	469	0.81	-9.8	22	20	339	0.58	-7.3	34	34
Clarendon	469	1.01	-39.2	19	12	402	0.86	15.8	24	28
Colleton	1,876	2.39	39.1	9	11	345	0.44	5.2	38	43
Darlington	1,697	3.80	83.5	5	7	100	0.22	-41.9	42	44
Dillon	134	0.40	-36.8	29	24	348	1.04	38.8	20	26
Dorchester	1,318	2.79	-2.3	7	4	149	0.31	-35.6	41	39
Edgefield	134	0.35	*	33	39	876	2.27	56.7	3	9
Fairfield	380	0.63	15.7	24	25	720	1.20	-13.1	17	11
Florence	246	0.40	-44.5	29	22	261	0.42	-35.7	39	33
Georgetown	1,407	2.25	10.6	10	9	417	0.67	54.4	29	41
Greenville	22	0.05	*	40	39	278	0.60	-9.8	33	31
Greenwood	201	0.63	*	24	39	486	1.52	80.1	10	22
Hampton	826	1.63	-46.4	14	3	461	0.91	-14.7	22	14
Horry	782	0.94	3.9	20	19	151	0.18	-12.9	43	45
Jasper	558	1.15	-27.6	16	14	298	0.61	286.7	31	46
Kershaw	804	1.43	22.7	15	17	310	0.55	-35.6	35	21
Lancaster	67	0.16	15.5	36	34	328	0.79	-45.1	26	10
Laurens	22	0.04	-76.7	42	32	636	1.28	37.5	16	18
Lee	380	1.10	*	17	39	208	0.61	-9.8	31	31
Lexington	268	0.61	362.0	26	35	162	0.37	-57.8	40	20
McCormick	89	0.27	370.2	34	37	733	2.21	100.3	4	13
Marion	938	2.77	131.6	8	16	57	0.17	-66.8	44	36
Marlboro	759	1.73	293.4	13	28	569	1.30	73.6	15	26
Newberry	179	0.36	*	32	39	788	1.59	-24.3	8	4
Oconee	112	0.25	-51.7	35	27	402	0.90	74.0	23	35
Orangeburg	402	0.51	30.5	28	29	750	0.95	-7.2	21	16
Pickens	45	0.13	-42.0	38	31	506	1.47	54.3	11	17
Richland	2,144	4.03	48.4	4	6	694	1.31	24.1	13	15
Saluda	156	0.52	722.8	27	37	792	2.64	5.3	2	2
Spartanburg	45	0.11	*	39	39	707	1.70	83.7	6	18
Sumter	2,390	4.51	61.0	1	5	240	0.45	-45.9	37	22
Union	0	0.00	0.0	43	39	335	0.83	73.6	25	40
Williamsburg	737	0.92	73.8	21	26	519	0.65	-13.0	30	28
York	0	0.00	-100.0	43	33	625	1.45	15.8	12	12
Total	26,843	1.22	15.8	NA	NA	20,194	0.92	0.2	NA	NA
	(+ -) 2,786					(+ -) 1,156				

95% Confidence Interval for harvest

*No indication of hogs harvested in 2005

Table 15. Number of deer-vehicle collisions reported by the South Carolina Department of Public Safety 2000-2006.

County	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Abbeville	48	53	39	16	5	5	11
Aiken	101	123	121	57	60	31	47
Allendale	23	16	12	12	7	5	10
Anderson	49	37	76	32	27	27	47
Bamberg	27	32	20	10	13	8	20
Barnwell	24	27	30	19	13	17	29
Beaufort	125	88	102	73	100	57	110
Berkeley	137	96	114	63	52	35	40
Calhoun	26	25	16	21	6	8	10
Charleston	159	154	121	150	159	100	175
Cherokee	78	77	100	12	8	4	10
Chester	123	103	90	13	5	7	7
Chesterfield	34	24	20	4	4	4	7
Clarendon	27	34	33	37	29	12	16
Colleton	86	65	94	36	48	24	45
Darlington	38	53	47	20	10	9	13
Dillon	25	27	25	8	4	4	8
Dorchester	122	86	127	91	73	52	48
Edgefield	42	45	44	24	22	15	17
Fairfield	85	78	61	14	16	11	9
Florence	152	139	134	40	27	17	24
Georgetown	59	44	32	25	13	16	8
Greenville	45	80	116	45	53	18	56
Greenwood	154	152	131	42	32	16	33
Hampton	25	18	6	19	16	10	25
Horry	159	160	144	48	46	24	45
Jasper	85	68	84	37	38	23	50
Kershaw	108	101	82	22	28	11	18
Lancaster	127	96	98	16	18	7	11
Laurens	146	158	186	65	59	34	48
Lee	25	23	39	21	10	15	8
Lexington	75	55	65	60	43	26	34
McCormick	48	29	17	13	6	6	11
Marion	12	15	26	6	7	0	4
Marlboro	34	37	51	8	7	5	7
Newberry	107	115	112	33	32	21	31
Oconee	14	12	26	10	4	9	13
Orangeburg	132	109	45	53	35	25	64
Pickens	26	27	37	20	17	11	18
Richland	130	74	72	75	83	51	64
Saluda	62	71	59	18	16	16	10
Spartanburg	119	144	186	86	68	35	94
Sumter	101	94	95	44	37	38	30
Union	43	46	23	10	10	9	9
Williamsburg	79	79	65	28	18	21	19
York	130	137	151	29	17	11	53
Total	3,576	3,326	3,374	1,585	1,401	910	1,466

Table 16. Average live body weights of deer from South Carolina counties, based on historic data.

COUNTY	Males				Females			
	1.5 Years Old		2.5+ Years Old		1.5 Years Old		2.5+ Years Old	
	N	Avg. Wt.	N	Avg. Wt.	N	Avg. Wt.	N	Avg. Wt.
Abbeville	1,390	111.7	484	145.9	466	90.4	747	102.7
Aiken	2,667	121.6	1,485	162.6	808	94.9	1,522	109.6
Allendale	6,175	108.9	3,333	146.0	2,503	87.7	5,606	100.8
Anderson	30	121.9	17	148.1	4	92.5	8	113.0
Bamberg	2,414	111.9	1,113	142.4	884	91.4	1,721	103.9
Barnwell	1,478	119.1	695	156.6	601	94.3	1,071	106.9
Beaufort	952	101.6	1,236	135.2	690	86.7	1,818	99.8
Berkeley	3,162	100.6	4,198	127.3	1,086	83.4	3,991	97.2
Calhoun	1,588	110.2	633	144.1	312	91.4	943	104.6
Charleston	1,256	97.9	2,088	123.3	422	83.3	1,581	95.8
Cherokee	1	80.0	1	139.0	9	77.8	26	89.6
Chester	1,445	105.9	963	140.1	470	87.4	1,091	99.4
Chesterfield	79	119.4	140	152.5	27	93.5	1,128	99.8
Clarendon	13	101.3	29	152.5	42	89.6	87	103.0
Colleton	5,822	105.6	6,908	135.5	3,279	87.9	8,920	100.4
Darlington	334	113.6	273	153.3	216	92.8	573	105.2
Dillon	74	112.8	46	138.5	13	92.8	50	103.9
Dorchester	1,868	107.2	2,205	137.0	653	88.0	2,055	103.0
Edgefield	556	100.9	334	133.4	159	84.6	306	96.9
Fairfield	2,048	102.1	1,444	136.5	761	86.3	2,021	99.2
Florence	696	110.8	459	139.2	198	89.6	621	102.8
Georgetown	1,881	98.7	2,281	126.1	668	85.6	1,961	97.6
Greenville	7	122.1	9	149.9	7	79.3	16	98.4
Greenwood	1,158	111.4	537	145.1	313	90.2	629	103.0
Hampton	6,103	106.7	4,710	140.0	3,034	87.2	7,236	100.5
Horry	302	96.1	311	126.1	129	79.2	301	91.3
Jasper	3,385	101.8	4,691	135.4	2,142	84.6	5,948	96.9
Kershaw	603	108.9	588	144.6	251	89.6	758	102.9
Lancaster	472	113.1	246	153.3	213	91.4	441	105.2
Laurens	240	104.7	181	132.9	107	87.3	238	96.9
Lee	472	119.6	187	151.3	162	96.6	330	108.5
Lexington	20	120.8	9	164.8	6	101.3	15	115.8
McCormick	2,354	101.5	1,056	134.5	877	85.3	1,745	97.3
Marion	690	108.5	501	138.7	256	88.6	630	98.7
Marlboro	106	115.0	62	149.8	30	95.0	70	107.8
Newberry	143	97.1	100	135.6	85	86.0	171	92.7
Oconee	74	113.1	58	152.6	33	85.3	39	99.6
Orangeburg	2,293	112.5	1,375	145.0	686	90.8	1,684	103.4
Pickens	47	109.1	41	145.4	18	79.9	48	100.5
Richland	1,320	106.1	1,274	145.2	651	92.7	1,879	106.3
Saluda	100	115.8	40	148.0	25	93.6	34	105.2
Spartanburg	34	109.3	22	142.2	13	95.0	31	98.8
Sumter	666	111.3	353	142.1	188	94.4	509	105.3
Union	958	101.7	608	135.8	439	87.9	761	97.8
Williamsburg	469	112.5	559	143.3	150	91.4	478	106.0
York	13	96.9	30	143.9	20	78.7	41	93.9
Total	57,958	107.3	47,913	137.9	24,106	88.0	61,879	100.6

Table 17. Antler characteristics of male deer from South Carolina counties, based on historic data.

COUNTY	1.5 Years Old Males			2.5+ Years Old Males			% 1.5 Bucks in Antlered Harvest
	Number Points	Percent Spikes	Outside Spread	Number Points	Percent Spikes	Outside Spread	
Abbeville	4.2	32		7.2	2		74
Aiken	4.4	28	8.7	7.4	1	14.7	64
Allendale	4.0	36	7.7	7.2	3	13.7	65
Anderson	4.7	28		6.8	0		63
Bamberg	4.0	34	7.6	6.7	4	12.5	68
Barnwell	4.6	21	8.7	7.1	2	13.9	68
Beaufort	3.1	58	7.4	6.4	9	13.0	44
Berkeley	3.0	62	6.6	5.8	12	11.5	43
Calhoun	4.0	33	7.4	7.0	3	13.2	72
Charleston	2.8	69	6.2	5.4	15	10.6	38
Cherokee				7.0	0		50
Chester	3.4	47	8.7	6.7	4	13.9	61
Chesterfield	4.5	21	8.6	7.2			61
Clarendon	2.8	58	6.2	7.7	3	12.9	31
Colleton	3.3	50	6.9	6.4	7	11.7	46
Darlington	3.1	57	7.4	6.7	5	13.7	55
Dillon	3.2	54	8.1	5.7	9	11.6	62
Dorchester	3.3	53	6.6	6.0	9	11.1	46
Edgefield	3.3	50		6.6	5		63
Fairfield	3.1	55	7.5	6.4	6	13.8	59
Florence	3.4	47	7.4	6.1	9	12.1	60
Georgetown	2.8	65	6.6	5.6	13	11.0	45
Greenville	4.7	14		7.6	0		44
Greenwood	3.9	34		6.7	3		68
Hampton	3.9	39	7.7	6.9	4	13.0	56
Horry	3.0	58	6.8	6.2	8	12.1	49
Jasper	3.3	52	7.0	6.6	6	12.8	42
Kershaw	3.6	47	7.7	6.9	7	12.3	51
Lancaster	4.3	27	6.7	7.4	0	15.0	66
Laurens	3.2	53	6.7	6.0	10	13.7	57
Lee	4.3	25	8.4	6.7	2	12.9	72
Lexington	4.1	30	9.1	7.3	0	15.7	69
McCormick	3.5	47		6.8	4		69
Marion	3.3	52	7.3	6.2	10	12.4	58
Marlboro	3.1	53	7.0	6.4	10	12.6	63
Newberry	2.8	54		6.3	8	13.3	59
Oconee	3.4	52		7.3	3		56
Orangeburg	3.8	38	7.6	6.8	5	12.6	63
Pickens	4.0	43		7.2	2		53
Richland	3.3	52	7.3	6.8	5	13.5	51
Saluda	4.0	32	9.0	6.9	0	10.8	71
Spartanburg	4.0	33	6.1	7.1	0		61
Sumter	3.7	41	7.7	6.6	5	12.5	65
Union	3.3	51	7.2	6.6	5	13.6	61
Williamsburg	3.6	43	7.6	6.8	5	12.6	46
York	3.1	60	5.3	7.4	0	13.3	30
Total	3.6	44	7.4	6.5	7	12.4	55

January, 2007

Dear Sportsman:

White-tailed deer are one of the most important game species in South Carolina. Therefore, it is important that this species be monitored for population status and harvesting activities. Wildlife resource managers require current and accurate information about deer harvests to aid in successfully managing this important natural resource and to optimize future hunting potential. To obtain this needed data, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is conducting a survey of licensed Big Game Permit holders.

You are one of a group of randomly selected hunters asked to participate in this survey. To draw accurate conclusions it is very important that you complete the survey and return it. Please take time to read each question. Even if you did not hunt deer last season please indicate this by answering the appropriate questions and moving on to the next set of questions.

In addition to the questions concerning your deer hunting activities, there are questions concerning the weapons that you used to hunt deer and questions concerning the number of wild hogs and coyotes that you may have harvested. Not only is this data important to DNR game biologists, many hunters are interested in this type of information so it is important that you answer these questions too.

Please note that complete confidentiality will be given to you. Keep in mind that the purpose of the survey is to determine the deer harvest in South Carolina and not to determine whether game laws are observed. By accurately answering the survey questions you will enable DNR biologists to better manage the white-tailed deer resource for you and other citizens of the state.

Please keep in mind that in order to reduce costs, this is the only 2006 Deer Hunter Survey form you will receive. There will be no reminders or second surveys sent to individuals that do not respond to this initial survey. Therefore, it is very important that you take a few minutes to complete this survey and mail it. Return postage is prepaid.

Results of this survey will be posted on the DNR web site once completed (hopefully by June). The results from the 2005 survey can be found at www.dnr.state.sc.us/wild/deer/img/2005DeerHarvestReport.pdf

Thank you for your assistance.

Charles Ruth
Wildlife Biologist
Deer/Turkey Project Supervisor

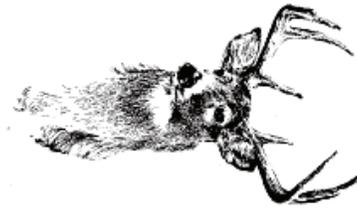
PLEASE MAIL YOUR SURVEY AFTER SEPARATING THIS HALF FROM THE SIDE ON WHICH YOUR ANSWERS HAVE BEEN ENTERED. NO POSTAGE IS NECESSARY.

If you have questions regarding this survey, please call 803-734-3886 or write 2006 Deer Hunter Survey, SCDNR, P.O. Box 167, Columbia, SC 29202.

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, disability, religion or age. Direct all inquiries to the Office of Human Resources, P.O. Box 167, Columbia, SC 29202

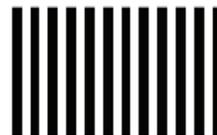
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2006 South Carolina Deer Hunter Survey

1. Did you hunt deer in SC this past season (2006)? **1. Yes** **2. No**
 If you answered **No** to this question please **go to question # 8.**

2. Did you harvest any deer in SC this past season? **1. Yes** **2. No**

3. Even if you did not harvest any deer, please record the SC counties you deer hunted and the number of days hunted in each county this past season (2006). Please begin with the county you hunted the most. If you harvested deer please record the number of bucks and does taken in each county. A day of hunting is defined as any portion of the day spent afield. Please do not give ranges (i.e. 5-10), rather provide absolute numbers (i.e. 5). Provide information only for yourself - not friends, relatives, or other hunt club members.

Counties You Deer Hunted	# Days Hunted	Number Deer Harvested	
1		# Bucks	#Does
2		# Bucks	#Does
3		# Bucks	#Does
4		# Bucks	#Does

4. Please record the number of deer taken with each weapon last season (2006).

Rifle	Bow	Shotgun	Muzzleloader	Crossbow	Handgun

5. Please circle **all** the weapons that you hunted deer with in 2006.

1. Rifle 2. Bow 3. Shotgun 4. Muzzleloader 5. Crossbow 6. Handgun

6. Please circle the **one** weapon that you **prefer to hunt deer with.**

1. Rifle 2. Bow 3. Shotgun 4. Muzzleloader 5. Crossbow 6. Handgun

7. Compared to past years, how would you describe the number of deer in the area that you hunt most often? **Circle one**

1. Increasing 2. About the same 3. Decreasing

8. If you **harvested** any wild hogs or coyotes in SC in 2006, please complete the box below. If you did not harvest any hogs or coyotes please **go to question # 9.**

County	# Hogs	County	# Coyotes
1		1	
2		2	
3		3	

9. How many youths under 16 years in your household hunt deer? _____ **None** _____
 If you answered **None** to this question please **go to question # 11.**

10. How many deer did these youth(s) kill in 2006? # Bucks _____ # Does _____

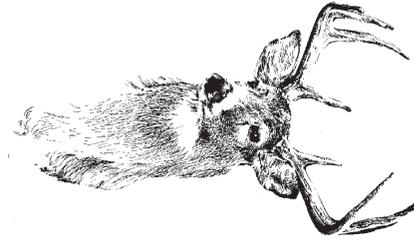
11. How would you rate the management of deer in South Carolina? **Circle one.**

1. Poor 2. Fair 3. Good 4. Very Good 5. Excellent

12. Are you a resident of SC? **1. Yes** **2. No**

13. If yes, which county _____

Separate and return this portion of the survey. Postage is prepaid. Please do not staple this form.



**IMPORTANT
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Figure 2. Percent of female deer conceiving by week in South Carolina, based on historic data.

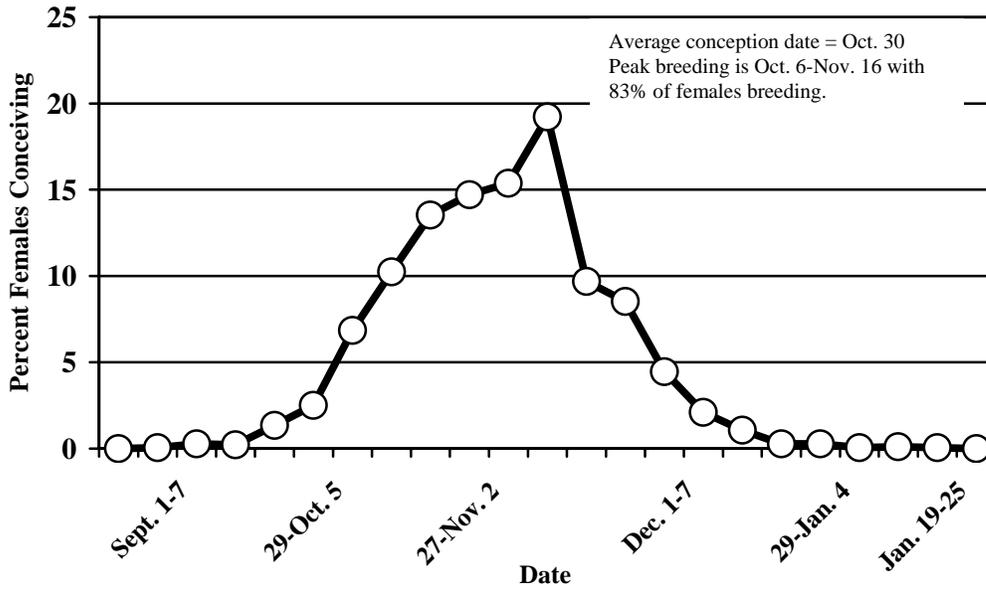


Figure 3. Percent of deer harvested by week of hunting season in South Carolina, based on historic data.

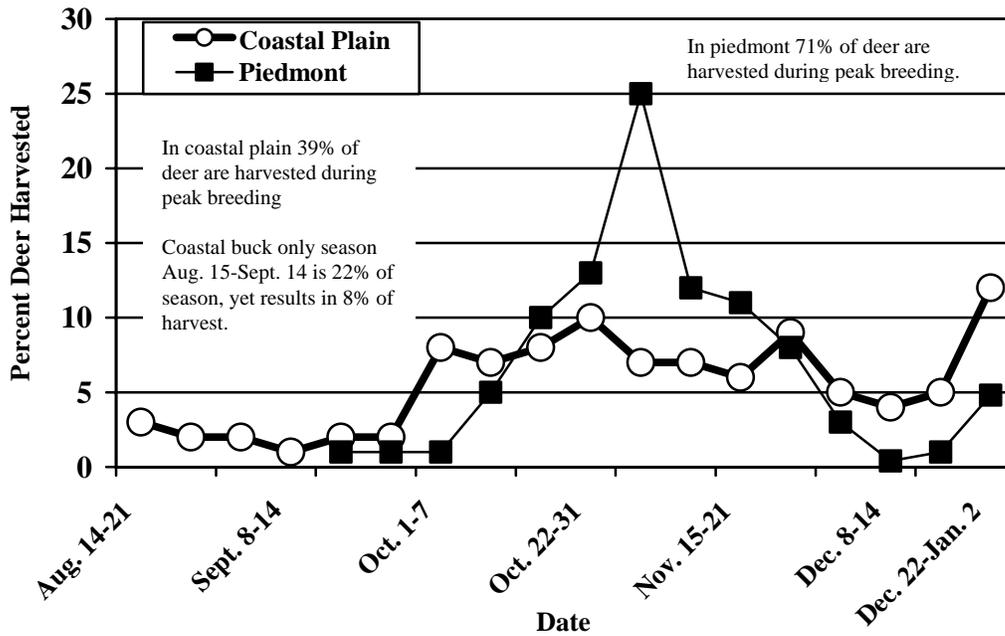


Figure 4. Estimated deer harvest in South Carolina 1972-2006.

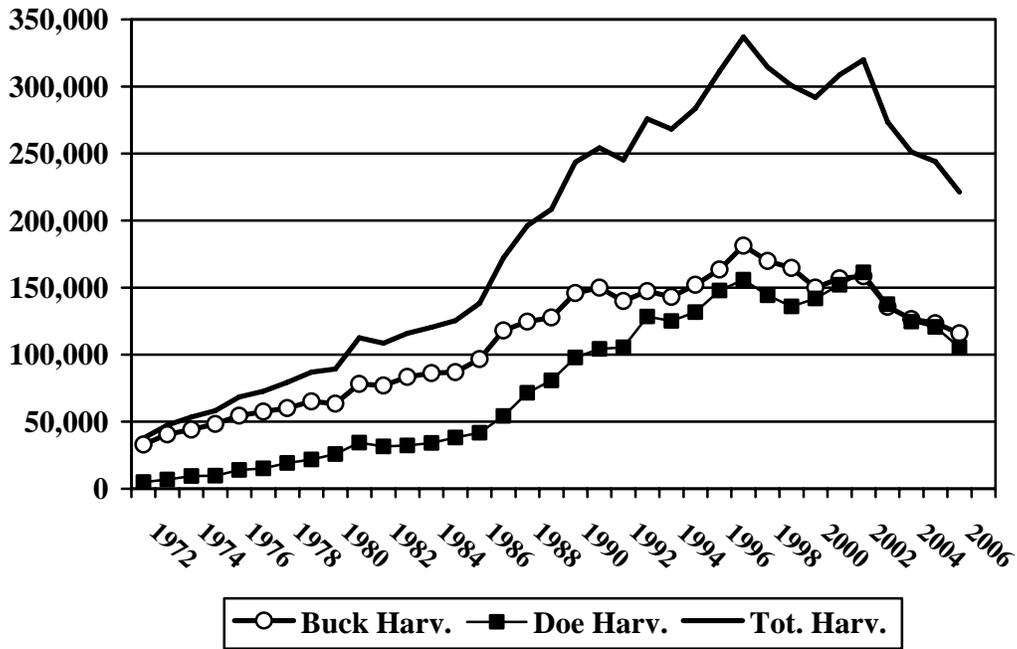


Figure 5. South Carolina deer population 1972-2006 based on population reconstruction modeling. Note that antlerless deer includes male fawns (button bucks).

